

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 10:13 AM

Subject: Budget Speaker Registration/Testimony
Attachments: 20150407101234_Bills 17 18 19 2015 HART Funding - Budget 4.8.15 Final.pdf

~~Speaker Registration~~/Testimony

All fields marked "*" are required and must be completed in order for this form to be valid.

Note: Registrations are not accepted prior to the agendas being posted.

Name(*) Shannon Alivado

Phone (*) (808) 833-1681

Email (*) shannon@gcahawaii.org

Meeting Date (*) 2015-04-08

Council/PH Committee (*) Budget

Agenda Item (*) Bills 17, 18 & 19

Your position on the matter (*) Support

Representing (*) Organization

Organization General Contractors Association of Hawaii

Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*) Yes

Written Testimony

Testimony Attachment 20150407101234_Bills 17 18 19 2015 HART Funding - Budget 4.8.15 Final.pdf

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1065 Ahua Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: 808-833-1681 FAX: 839-4167
Email: info@gcahawaii.org
Website: www.gcahawaii.org



GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

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April 8, 2015

Honorable Ann Kobayashi, Chair
Honorable Joey Manahan, Vice Chair
Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu
City Council Chamber, Honolulu Hale

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF HONOLULU AUTHORITY FOR RAPID
TRANSPORTATION BILLS:
BILL 17 (HART OPERATING BUDGET);
BILL 18 (HART CAPITAL BUDGET); &
BILL 19 (BOND AUTHORIZATION)**

Budget Committee Special Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 8, 2015
TIME: 9:00 a.m.

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Dear Chair Kobayashi, Vice Chair Manahan, and Members of the Committee,

The General Contractors Association (GCA) is an organization comprised of over five hundred eighty (580) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. The GCA's mission is to represent its members in all matters related to the construction industry, while improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest.

The GCA **supports** the passage of budget related bills to fund the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART). These bills are important to ensure that the Honolulu Rail Transit Project will move forward. The funding of the HART staff and Board is paramount to their success in delivering the largest public infrastructure the state has ever been tasked to deliver. The funding mechanisms provided by these bills will ensure that HART's Board can operate and function efficiently and with necessary resources in place.

GCA **supports** Bill 17 (HART Operating Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016); Bill 18 (HART Capital Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016); and Bill 19 (Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds). Collectively, these bills will ensure the preservation of funding for the operating and capital budgets.

GCA is **in support** of Bill 17, **HART's Operating Budget** as it relates to the positions that HART will need to ensure the proper operation of the transit project and the administration of the system. GCA also appreciates HART Executive Director Dan Grabauskas' conservative approach represented at previous Council and Committee meetings, but would urge support of full funding of HART's operating budget request.

GCA also **supports Bill 18, HART's Capital Budget**, which includes allocation of monies necessary for acquisition of land, construction, planning and design and capital expenditures.

The HART Board was born after the adoption of a city charter amendment, which created it as a semi-autonomous body responsible for the planning, construction, maintenance, and operation, of the rail transit system. These bills will further secure the funding for the transit project to move forward. It is important that the rail transit project continues to progress ahead.

Rail is transportation infrastructure necessary for our island's quality, growth and prosperity. But a significant side benefit is the economic stimulus effect it would bring to our entire. As the conversation regarding the extension of the tax surcharge continues, the focus should remain on the future outcome of an alternative transportation system that will allow Honolulu's residents and visitors travel options, will encourage transit-oriented-development and will create more housing options for all.

GCA respectfully request that Bills 17, 18, and 19 be carefully reviewed and request your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.